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A BOOK ABOUT DIPHTHONGS AND R-CONTROLLED VOWELS



The Clown in the Gown Drives the Car with the Star



BRIAN P. CLEARY

Illustrations by **JASON MISKIMINS**

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The Clown in the Gown Drives the Car with the Star

A BOOK ABOUT DIPHTHONGS AND R-CONTROLLED VOWELS

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illustrations by
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M Millbrook Press/Minneapolis

**to Miss Gasper,
my seventh-grade teacher in Rocky River, Ohio
—B.P.C.**

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Dear Parents and Educators,

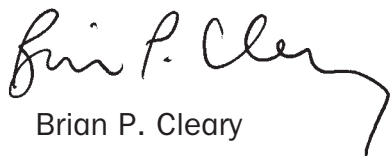
As a former adult literacy coach and the father of three children, I know that learning to read isn't always easy. That's why I developed **Sounds Like Reading™**—a series that uses a combination of devices to help children learn to read.

This book is the eighth in the **Sounds Like Reading™** series. It uses rhyme, repetition, illustration, and phonics to introduce young readers to diphthongs—vowel sound combinations in which the sound of one letter glides into the other, as in *toy*—and r-controlled vowels—vowels in which the sound changes because of the presence of the *r*, such as the *a* in *star*.

Starting on page 4, you'll see three rhyming words on each left-hand page. These words are part of the sentence on the facing page. They all feature a diphthong or an r-controlled vowel. As the book progresses, the sentences become more challenging. These sentences contain a “discovery” word—an extra rhyming word in addition to those that appear on the left. Toward the end of the book, the sentences contain two discovery words. And for an extra challenge, the final sentence in this book contains three! Children will delight in the increased confidence that finding and decoding the discovery words will bring. They'll also enjoy looking for the mouse that appears throughout the book. The mouse asks readers to look for words that sound alike.

The bridge to literacy is one of the most important we will ever cross. It is my hope that the **Sounds Like Reading™** series will help young readers to hop, gallop, and skip from one side to the other!

Sincerely,


Brian P. Cleary

**Look for me
to help you find
the words that
sound alike!**



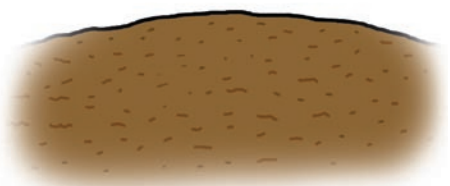
oil



foil



soil

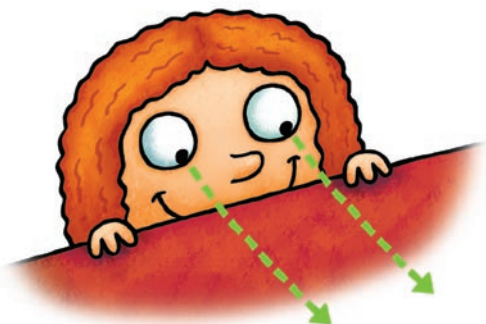




Can you find
three words that
sound alike?

He poured **oil** on the **foil**
on the **soil**.

saw



paw



jaw





I **saw** her **paw** on his **jaw**.



mouse



blouse



house





Can you find
three words that
sound alike?

The **mouse** took the **blouse** from
her **house**.



herd



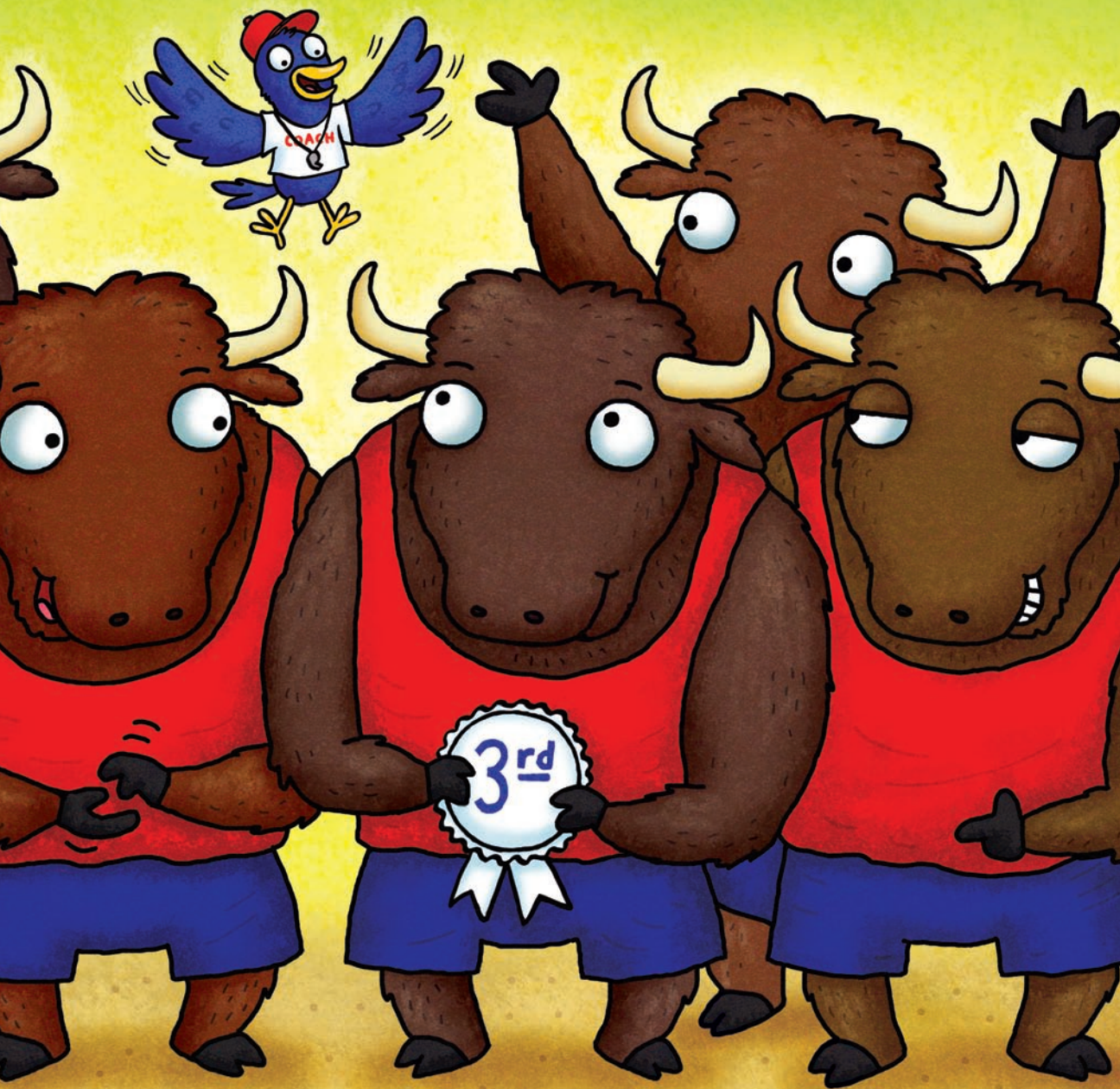
bird



third



Can you find
three words that
sound alike?



The **herd** and the **bird** finished **third**.

tar



car



star





There is **tar** on the **car** in the shape of a **star**.

bow



mow



row





The girl with the **bow** will **mow** grass in a **row**.

COW

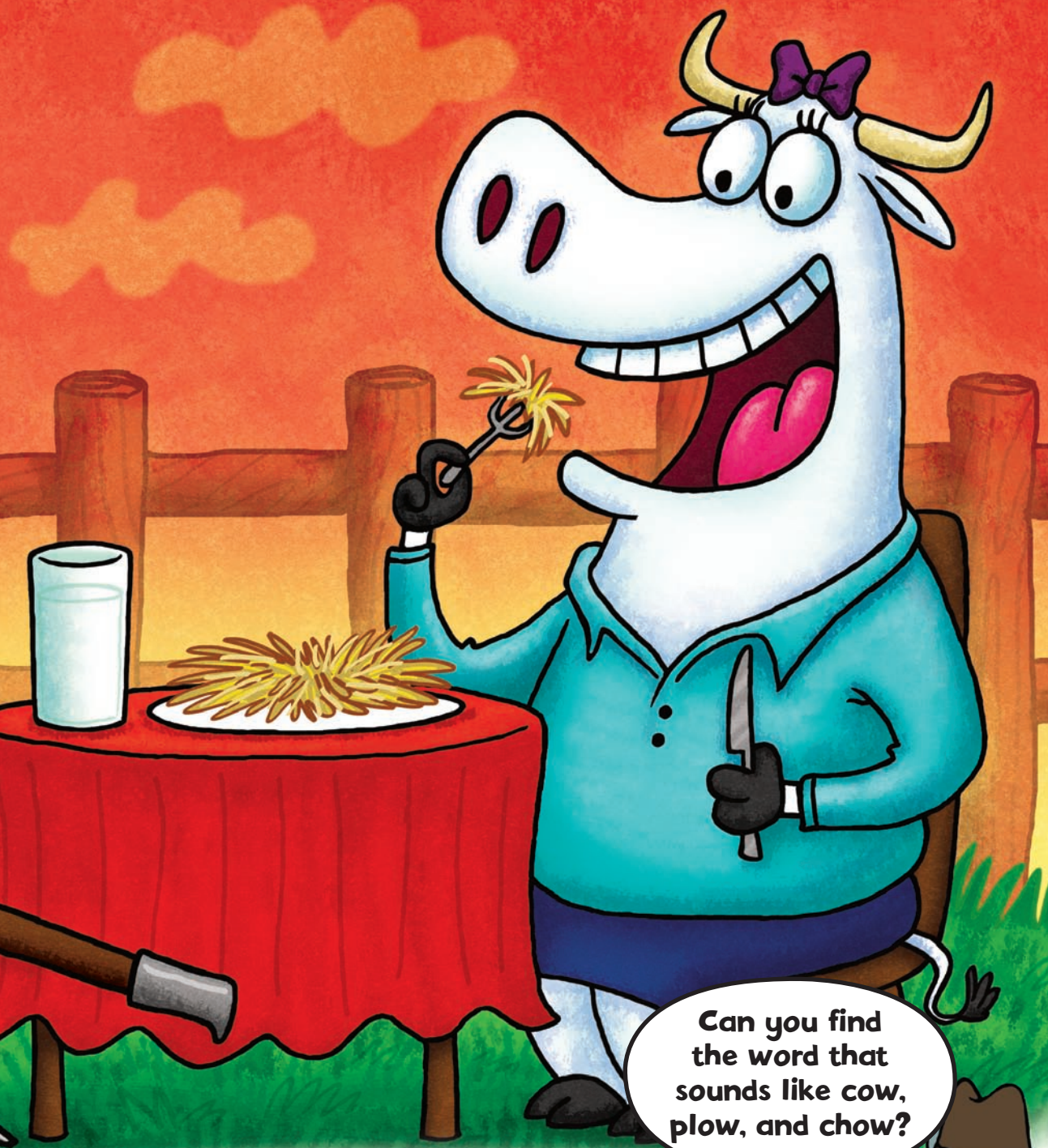


plow



chow





The **cow** by the **plow** will
eat her **chow** now.



clown



gown



crown





The **clown** in the **gown** has a **brown crown**.

Bert



skirt



shirt



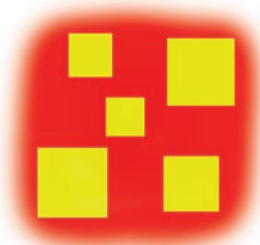


Can you find
the word that
sounds like Bert,
skirt, and shirt?

Bert got **dirt** on her **skirt**
and **shirt**.



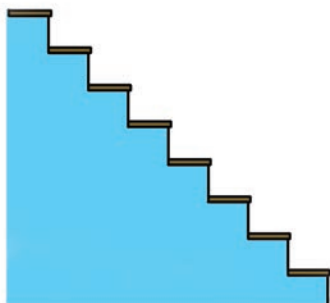
squares

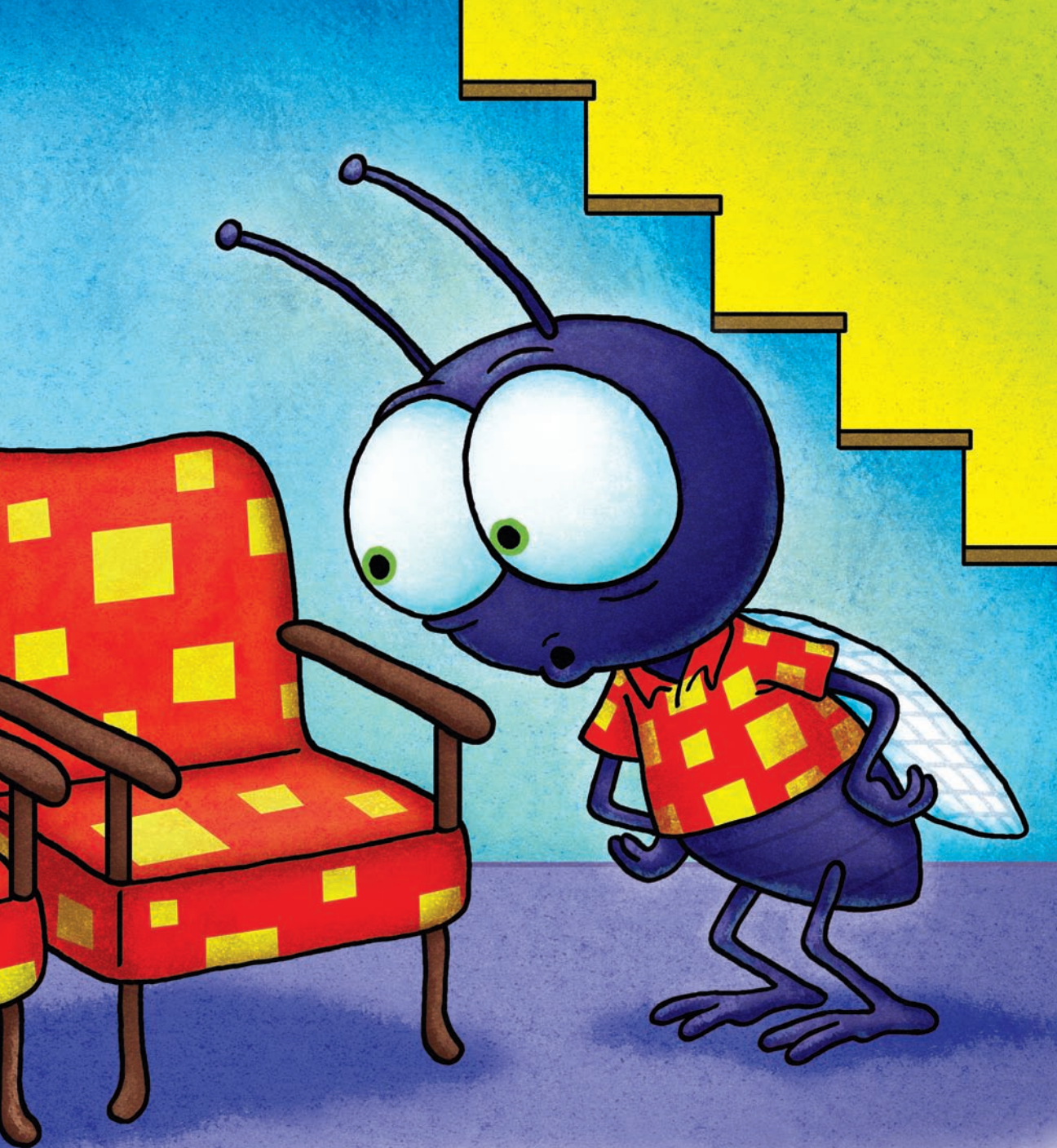


chairs



stairs





He **stares** at the **squares** on the **chairs** by the **stairs**.

crow



throw



snow



Can you find the word that sounds like crow, throw, and snow?





The **slow crow** can **throw snow**.

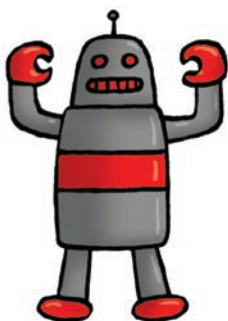
Troy



boy



toy



Can you find
two words that
sound like Troy,
boy, and toy?





Joy and **Roy** gave **Troy** and his
boy a **toy**.

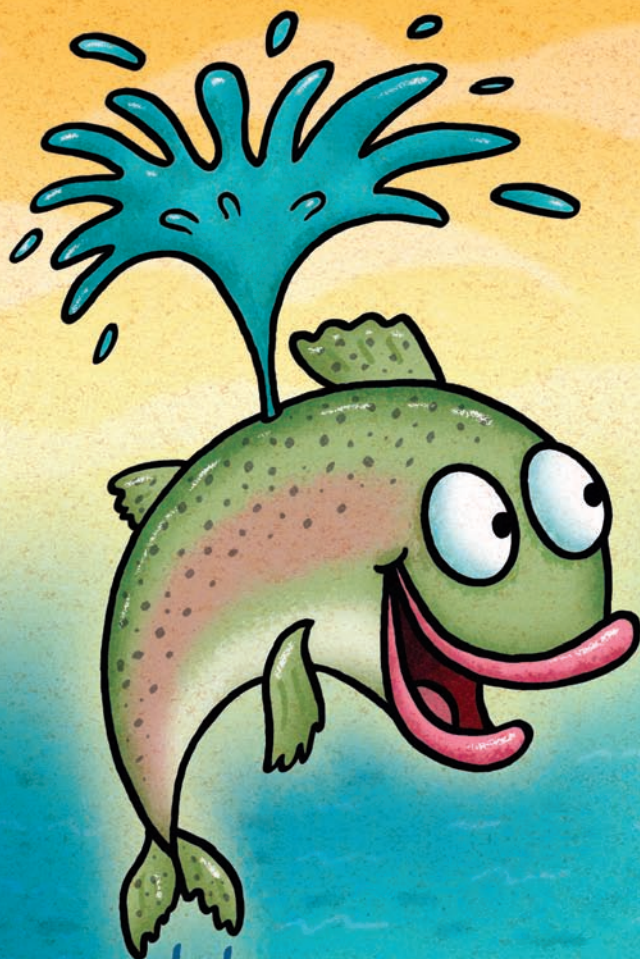
scout



trout



spout



Can you find
two words that
sound like scout,
trout, and spout?





The **scout** had to **shout** when he looked **out** and saw a **trout** with a **spout**.

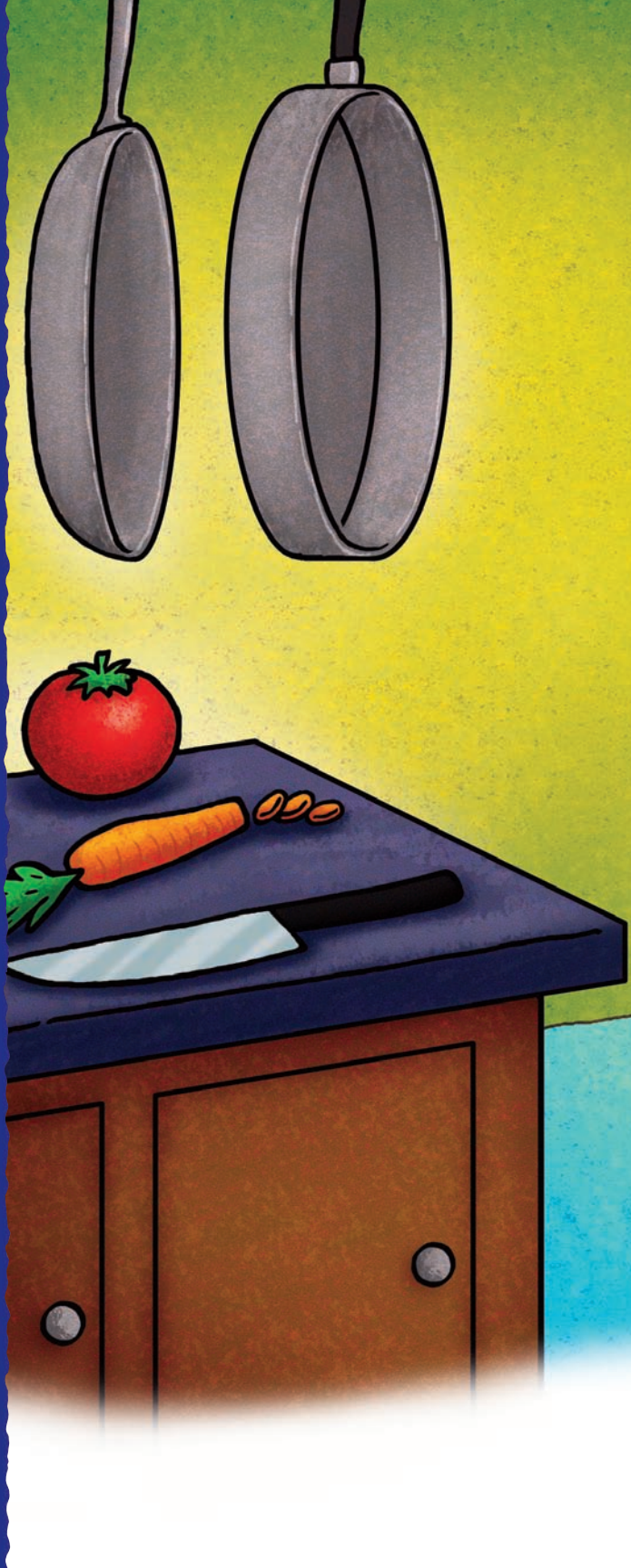
cook



hook



book





Can you find
three words that
sound like cook,
hook, and book?

The **cook** with the **hook** took a
look at the **book** in his **nook**.



Brian P. Cleary is the author of the best-selling Words Are CATegorical® series as well as the Math Is CATegorical® and Adventures in Memory™ series. He has also written several picture books and poetry books. In addition to his work as a children's author and humorist, Mr. Cleary has been a tutor in an adult literacy program. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jason Miskimins grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated from the Columbus College of Art & Design in 2003. He currently lives in North Olmsted, Ohio, where he works as an illustrator of books and greeting cards.

Alice M. Maday has a master's degree in early childhood education from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, and a Ph.D. in early childhood education, with a focus in literacy, from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dr. Maday has taught at the college level as well as in elementary schools and preschools throughout the country. In addition, she has served as an emergent literacy educator for kindergarten and first-grade students in Germany for the U.S. Department of Defense. Her research interests include the kindergarten curriculum, emergent literacy, parent and teacher expectations, and the place of preschool in the reading readiness process.



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phonics fun, check out
all eight **SOUNDS LIKE
READING™** titles listed on
the back of this book!

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games, and more at
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Come along with me and learn all
about reading! Brian P. Cleary's wacky
sentences and Jason Miskimins's
colorful art will make phonics fun!



BOOK 1 The Bug in the Jug Wants a Hug

A Short Vowel Sounds Book

BOOK 2 Stop, Drop, and Flop in the Slop

A Short Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Blends

BOOK 3 The Nice Mice in the Rice

A Long Vowel Sounds Book

BOOK 4 The Frail Snail on the Trail

A Long Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Blends

BOOK 5 The Thing on the Wing Can Sing

A Short Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Digraphs

BOOK 6 Whose Shoes Would You Choose?

A Long Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Digraphs

BOOK 7 The Peaches on the Beaches

A Book about Inflectional Endings

BOOK 8 The Clown in the Gown Drives the Car with the Star

A Book about Diphthongs and R-Controlled Vowels



Find activities, games, and more at
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